

Outline for Humanities 214 Crusades Lecture, Ann Dunn:

Definition: Crusades = The waves of Latin Christian armed pilgrimages launched from Western Europe to Jerusalem, preached by popes with the aim of claiming or re-claiming holy sites for Christendom, that occurred between 1095 and 1291. *Crus* is from French for “cross.”

- I. Conditions before the Crusades: Three “civilizations” in 1095 – what do they look like, how did they get there, and how do they interact with each other?
 - Eastern Christianity (Byzantium/Constantinople)
 - Western Christianity (Europe/Rome)
 - Islam (Baghdad/Cairo/Andalusia/Anatolia)
- II. First Crusade
- III. Second Crusade
- IV. Third Crusade
- V. Fourth Crusade
- VI. Royal Crusades
- VII. Changes and Immediate Consequences
 - Byzantium
 - Islam
 - Western Europe
- VIII. Follow-up and Historical Interpretations

Possible consequences for Western Europe – for your consideration while listening to the lecture and in classroom discussions:

- 1) Economic – stimulation of the rise of capitalism – monetization of markets / expansion of trade / expansion of industries like textiles and ship-building / growth of cities / development (thanks especially to the Templars) of efficient ways of organizing and moving capital using land as collateral / growth of Genoa and Venice as maritime and commercial capitals of the Mediterranean / access to the Black Sea and eastern markets / new appetite for luxury goods from the East /
- 2) Political – strengthening of nation states under powerful kings (manorial lords lost fortunes) / growth of towns which supported monarchies over the manorial system / growth of class of professional lay administrators at court, as opposed to hereditary advisory councils / death of the Byzantine Empire / strengthening of northern Italian cities into city-states run by despots (Genoa, Milan, Florence, Venice) / increase in enmity between England and France (Henry II and Louis VII, then John and Philip II) / rise of diplomacy as international political tool (Venice) / shift of focus from Constantinople to Italy, France, Germany, England – Europe as a political entity, as opposed to Christendom. Beginnings of emergence of secular authority’s transcendence over spiritual authority in matters of political, civil law, justice. Expansion of systems of public taxation and record keeping.
- 3) Religious – increase in use of “indulgences” and spiritual promises to gain support for papal worldly projects / split between East and West Churches (couldn’t get together to fight Ottomans) / increase in missionary activity (Prester John and Mongols) / application of crusading ideas and energy to perceived heresies at home (Inquisition of 1239-41) / increased persecution of the other within (Jew) / rise of grassroots movements with

crusade elements (the pastoreaux/shepherds and the flagellants) / increase in devotion to the cross and emulation of the suffering and poverty of Christ (St. Francis – faith without place) / religious hatred / disillusionment with moral authority of papacy

- 4) Social – increased mobility around Europe and beyond / shift in family hierarchies and fortunes / expansion of European consciousness / shift in attitudes and values from kinship and honor to those of commerce / expansion of written records (taxation) / growth in sense of national and racial identity
- 5) Cultural – architecture (stained glass and arabesque) / images as propaganda / influx of Byzantine art & artifacts into Italy (panel painting, influence on Giotto, four bronze horses at St. Marco, book illumination) / craftsmanship (silver and goldsmithing – new ornate reliquaries) music / textiles (Persian embroidery) / poetry (Jewish lament & martyrdom poetry) / literature (Crusade chronicles)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why were so many people so eager to undertake a long and difficult journey to be brutally killed far from home?
- 2) What hatreds surfaced, became focused, or were evoked by The Crusades?
- 3) What meanings have been ascribed to The Crusades by various participants, and at various times in history?
- 4) The normalization of unheard of levels of violence against ordinary citizens seems to be a feature of The Crusades. How do decent human beings turn into monsters?
- 5) What happens in Europe when the idea of religion with an accessible “place” (The Holy Land) has to be abandoned at the end of the 13th century?

For a good general map, and links to more detailed maps:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/maps/4cde.jpg>

For links to people, places, events, participants, origins, consequences, etc.:

http://www.medievalsources.co.uk/portal_crusades.htm